

Message Text

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SUBJ: PUNISHMENT OF FUKUOKA TEACHERS

SUMMARY: THREE MAJOR SCHOOL BOARDS IN FUKUOKA PREFECTURE ANNOUNCED ADMINISTRATIVE PUNISHMENT OF TEACHERS WHO HAD PARTICIPATED IN STRIKES PUNISHMENT OF SUCH A LARGE SCALE IS UNPRECEDENTED IN JAPAN, AND MAY BE FORERUNNER OF OTHER SUCH ACTIONS. REACTION LOCALLY AND NATIONALLY HAS BEEN STRONG, AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE AS ADMINISTRATIVE SUITS ARE FILED AGAINST ACTION. END SUMMARY.

1. IN OBVIOUSLY COORDINATED ACTION, INDEPENDENT EDUCATION COMMITTEES (KYOIKU IINKAI) OR FUKUOKA PREFECTURE PLUS KITAKYUSHU AND FUKUOKA CITIES ANNOUNCED ADMINISTRATIVE PUNISHMENT RANGING FROM LETTERS OF REPRIMAND TO SIX MONTHS SUSPENSION. PUNISHMENT IS FOR PARTICIPATION IN STRIKES OF MAY 19, 1972, AND APRIL 27 AND JULY 19 OF CURRENT YEAR.

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2. TOTAL OF 20,666 TEACHERS PUNISHED. CHAIRMAN OF FUKUOKA PREFECTURAL TEACHER'S UNION (FUKKYOSO) WAS SUSPENDED FROM OFFICE FOR SIX MONTHS, HIS TWO DEPUTIES FOR TWO MONTHS, AND EIGHT CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE SUSPENDED FOR ONE MONTH. EIGHTY-FOUR SMALLER FRY HAD PAY REDUCED FOR PERIOD RANGING UP TO THREE MONTHS. REST OF SLIGHTLY OVER 14,000 FUKKYOSO MEMBERS INVOLVED IN PUNISHMENT RECEIVED LETTER OF REPRIMAND. OF 4,332 FUKUOKA PREFECTURAL HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS (FUKKOKYOSO) PUNISHED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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97 RECEIVED REDUCTION OF PAY AND REST REPRIMANDED. SUSPENSIONS AND REDUCTIONS OF PAY TAKE EFFECT WHEN NOTICE DELIVERED BY REGISTERED MAIL. BOTH FUKKYOSO AND FUKKOKYOSO ARE AFFILIATED WITH NIKKYOSO, AND ALMOST THREE-FOURTHS OF ENTIRE PREFECTURAL MEMBERSHIP OF TWO UNIONS RECEIVED SOME SORT OF PUNISHMENT.

3. ALTHOUGH ACTION DESCRIBED IN BOTH JAPANESE AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE PAPERS AS FIRST OF ITS KIND, FUKUOKA PREFECTURAL EDUCATION OFFICE TOLD CONSULATE REPRIMANDS HAD BEEN GIVEN IN MIYAGI PREFECTURE TO TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN APRIL 27 STRIKE: HOWEVER, NUMBERS INVOLVED WERE MUCH SMALLER AND STRIKE LASTED ONLY ONE HOUR. NO TEACHERS WERE SUSPENDED SO IT HAD NOT BEEN PICKED UP BY MEDIA. OFFICIAL SAID THAT NOW THAT FUKUOKA PREFECTURE HAD ESTABLISHED MAJOR PRECEDENT, HE

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EXPECTED OTHER PREFECTURES WOULD IMPOSE ADMINISTRATIVE PUNISHMENT ON TEACHERS WHO HAD ILLEGALLY STRUCK.

4. CONSULATE WAS TOLD BY OFFICIAL OF PREFECTURAL EDUCATION OFFICE, WHICH ACTS AS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ORGANIZATION FOR PREFECTURAL SCHOOL BOARD, THAT THREE SCHOOL BOARDS HAD NOT WANTED TO TAKE NATIONAL LEAD IN PUNISHING STRIKING TEACHERS WITHIN PREFECTURE; HOWEVER, THREE FACTORS HAD PROMPTED DECISION - FIRST, UNIONISTS HAD BEEN TACITLY ENCOURAGED TO USE ANY METHODS THEY LIKED UNDER ADMINISTRATION OF FORMER PREFECTURAL GOVERNOR UZAKI (JSP) UNTIL PRESENT CONSERVATIVE GOVERNOR ELECTED IN 1967; SECOND, THE PERCENTAGE OF TEACHERS PARTICIPATING IN STRIKE WAS HIGHER THAN NATION-

WIDE AVERAGE; THIRD, SUPREME COURT RULING OF APRIL 25 OF THIS YEAR DECLARED ILLEGALITY OF TEACHER'S STRIKE IN UNEQUIVOCAL TERMS. OFFICIAL SAID THAT NOW THAT FUKUOKA PREFECTURE HAD ESTABLISHED MAJOR PRECEDENT, HE EXPECTED THAT OTHER PREFECTURES WOULD IMPOSE ADMINISTRATIVE PUNISHMENT ON TEACHERS WHO HAD ILLEGALLY STRUCK. PREDICTABLY, REACTION TO PUNISHMENT HAS BEEN STRONG AMONG TEACHER. A JOINT STRUGGLE COMMITTEE INCLUDING THE LOCAL AUTONOMY WORKER'S UNION (JICHIRO) AND LOCAL TEACHER'S UNIONS HAS BEEN FORMED AND

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SIT-INS HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED AT THE HOMES OF THE FIVE PREFECTURAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS. AS EMBASSY AWARE, JCP FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE LED BY DIETMAN KENJIRO YAMAHARA (KOCHI) AND INCLUDING HIROSHI ISAYAMA AND HISASHI MIURA, JCP DIETMEN FROM FUKUOKA PREFECTURE, VISITED KITAKYUSHU AND FUKUOKA FOR FOUR DAYS AFTER HU

PUNISHMENT ANNOUNCED. BOTH JSP AND JCP HAVE TAKEN THE MATTER UP IN DIET AND WE EXPECT THAT WHEN ADMINISTRATIVE SUITS FILED

AND PREFECTURAL ASSEMBLY BEGINS SESSION, LOCAL OPPOSITION
MOVEMENT WILL INCREASE. RICHARDSON
DECLAS SEP 6, 1974

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